

**Report to:** Corrections Advisory Council  
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#### GAINS Conference – Washington DC

March 17 - 20 - attended this national training event. MT delegates included county sheriff, board of crime control, mental health court, probation & parole, mental health centers, law enforcement academy, judge, prison mental health staff and community corrections program staff. Sessions focus on the many diversion and re-entry programs being developed for offenders with mental illness to include specialty courts, housing, benefit programs, crisis intervention teams and supported employment.

#### Parole Hearings – Guilty but Mentally Ill offenders at Montana State Hospital

The second round of parole hearings were conducted in March 2008 by the Board of Pardons and Parole. Both offenders were granted parole. To date, 5 individuals, sentenced under Guilty but Mentally Ill statutes have been reviewed for parole and four have been granted release to community supervision.

#### Work Group

A workgroup met to discuss the Guilty but Mentally ill statute. (46-14-312). The statute was written over 30 years ago and poses some challenges to the facilities, courts and supervision staff. The workgroup consisted of representatives from the Office of Public Defender, County Attorneys, Attorney Generals office, DPHHS legal, MT State Hospital, MT Developmental Center, MT Mental Health Nursing Care Center, Victim Advocate, Community Corrections and Dept of Corrections legal. Many opportunities for improved collaboration were discussed including cross training, resource listing, improvements to existing memorandums of understanding and data sharing. A minor revision to the statute was discussed that would improve coordination when an offender transitions from hospital level of care to other placements. Department Directors are reviewing.

#### Law Enforcement Training

The Department of Corrections and DPHHS/AMDD are working with the Montana Law Enforcement Academy to develop a series of mental health training events and resources for law enforcement, first responders and other justice professionals. The partnership will provide opportunities for Crisis Intervention Team training, mental health training, a field guide and expansion of basic law enforcement training in the areas of mental health and suicide prevention.

In June, the MLEA will be partnering with the MT Safe Schools Center to offer a training event on Child Development and Community Policing. The focus of the law enforcement training is to study the impacts of trauma on the emotional development of children – and how law enforcement officers may help children in the home when responding to calls where violence/trauma occurs.

#### Legislative – Interim Committees

Law & Justice – heard a presentation on California's Proposition 36 that mandates treatment for nonviolent drug possession offenders. The presentation compared the 5 key elements of Prop 36 to Montana's current practices in the same areas to determine if legislative action was needed in MT to do more of the Prop 36 activities. Findings indicate that Montana is diverting MORE offenders from prison, has more successful treatment outcomes, and provides more options for placement than California does despite CA spending over \$120 Million per year on the new initiative.

Child and Family, Health & Human Services – has contracted for a mental health study via RFP. The consultants have subcontracted with the GAINS Center for the criminal justice aspects of the study. May 12 – 16, the GAINS consultants will be touring facilities in MT to include the Montana State Prison, Montana Women's Prison, Billings prerelease center, Yellowstone County Detention Center, Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility, Montana State Hospital forensic unit, Lewis & Clark County Detention and the Missoula Mental Health Court. In addition, they will be hosting a stakeholder meeting with individuals they have identified for input.

#### Tours:

Montana State Hospital forensic staff will be visiting the Montana Women's Prison, prerelease center and correctional enterprise programs in Billings later this month. Director Ferriter, DOC and Joyce DeCunzo, AMDD will be joining the tour.